

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of automatically manufacturing a computer comprising:
 - a manufacturer receiving an order from a customer designated by the customer as a special configuration computer;
 - the customer selecting hardware components and a software package for the computer;
 - validating the configuration is within the manufacturer's capabilities;
 - the customer receiving guidance from the manufacturer to assist in selecting the hardware and software for the computer;
 - passing the order to a control unit of the manufacturer which controls various supply lines containing hardware components and software packages;
 - assembling together the selection of hardware components specified by the order; and
 - loading onto the computer the software package specified by the order, including:
 - providing an Internet-accessible page for the customer to specify any desired software modifications;
 - recording the modifications as an auto-configuration file; and
 - for each modification in the auto-configuration file, determining configuration data corresponding to the respective modification and entering the configuration data into the computer as the software package is being loaded.

2. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising verifying the modifications against order details.
3. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising verifying the modifications against current capabilities of the manufacturer.
4. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising logging the modifications as they are made.
5. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 3, further comprising logging the modifications as they are made.
6. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for automatically manufacturing a computer, comprising:
 - an order unit of a manufacturer for receiving an order from a customer designated by the customer as a special configuration computer;
 - customer selected hardware components and a software package for the computer;
 - means for validating that the configuration is within the manufacturer's capabilities;
 - customer guidelines from the manufacturer to assist in selecting the hardware and software for the computer;
 - a control unit controlling various supply lines containing hardware components and software packages;
 - an assembly unit for assembling together the selection of hardware components specified by the order; and
 - for loading onto the computer, the software package specified by the order including:

an Internet-accessible page onto which the customer can specify any desired software modifications;

a modification unit for recording the modifications as an auto-configuration file; and

for each modification in the auto-configuration file, a control unit for determining configuration data corresponding to the respective modification and entering the configuration data into the computer as the software package is being loaded.

7. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising means for verifying the modifications against order details.
8. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising means for verifying the modifications against current capabilities of the manufacturer.
9. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising means for logging the modifications as they are made.
10. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising means for logging the modifications as they are made.
11. (Currently Amended) An automated computer manufacturing method comprising:
 - a manufacturer receiving an order from a customer designated by the customer as a special configuration computer;
 - the customer selecting hardware components and a software package for the computer;

validating the configuration is within the manufacturer's capabilities;
the customer receiving guidance from the manufacturer to assist in
selecting the hardware and software for the computer;
downloading the order to a manufacturing unit;
including an auto-configuration indicator in the order for a special
configuration requirement;
generating a flag to look for the special configuration requirement;
making an inquiry to a manufacturing database for the special
configuration requirement[[;]] and if located, applying the special configuration
requirement to the order, and;

passing the order to a control unit of the manufacturer which controls
various supply lines containing hardware components and software packages;

assembling together the selection of hardware components specified by
the order; and

loading into the computer the software package specified by the order,
including the steps of:

providing an Internet-accessible page for the customer to specify
any desired software modifications;

recording the modifications as an auto-configuration file; and

for each modification in the auto-configuration file, determining any
configuration data requirement corresponding to the respective
modification and entering configuration requirement data into the
computer as the software package is being loaded.

12. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 11, further comprising
generating an order reference number.

13. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 12, further comprising accepting the order.
14. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 12, further comprising processing the special configuration requirement in parallel with a standard configuration requirement.
15. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 12, further comprising logging the special configuration requirement into a manufacturing log.
16. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 15, further comprising shipping the order to the customer.
17. (Cancelled).
18. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 17, further comprising verifying each modification against the order.
19. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 17, further comprising verifying each modification against current manufacturing capabilities.
20. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 17, further comprising logging each of the modifications.
21. (Currently Amended) A method of automatically manufacturing a computer comprising:
receiving an order designated by a customer as a special configuration computer;

validating the configuration is within the manufacturer's capabilities;
providing guidance to the customer for choosing the configuration;
passing the order to a modification unit and then to a validation unit;
passing the order to a control unit of the manufacturer which controls
various supply lines containing hardware components and software packages;
checking for consistency between order details and configuration details;
making the configuration details available to a control unit;
detecting any modification flag in the order details and obtaining
corresponding configuration details;
checking the corresponding configuration details with a database to
determine implementation; and
entering appropriate data into the computer being manufactured.

22. (Currently Amended) A method of automatically manufacturing an information handling system comprising:
- a manufacturer receiving an order designated by a customer as a special configuration computer order;
 - validating the configuration is within the manufacturer's capabilities;
 - the manufacturer providing guidance to the customer for choosing the configuration;
 - the manufacturer passing the order to a modification unit and then to a validation unit;
 - the validation unit checking for consistency between order details and configuration details;
 - after the configuration details are validated, making the configuration details available to a control unit which controls various supply lines containing hardware components and software packages;

the control unit detecting any modification flag in the order details and obtaining corresponding configuration details;

the control unit checking the corresponding configuration details with a database to determine implementation; and

the control unit entering appropriate data into the computer being manufactured.